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the red corpuscles nucleated, the amplification employed in these observations was about 3700 diameters.

My observations with the vertical illuminator as above related, were presented to the Dunkirk Microscopical Society in a paper which I had the honor to read before that society some two years ago, on which occasion many of the observations were publicly repeated, since which date similar results, as to the nucleus of the red corpuscles, have been arrived at by others, but as far as I can learn, these later observers subject the blood to treatment by means of re-agents, etc., the direct observations, therefore, as obtained with the vertical illuminator are to be preferred.

A point which should not be lost sight of is this, the vertical illuminator can only be successfully used in conjunction with an objective of high balsam angle; and may it not be further suggested that the use of wide angled glasses is not to be confined to the work of the diatomist?—*J. Edwards Smith, M.D., Cleveland, Ohio, Dec., 1878.*

THE WENHAM COMPRESSORIUM. — Mr. Geo. O. Mitchell, of Hanover, N. H., is making this useful little accessory of a somewhat smaller size than usual, and at a less price. His instruments have been furnished to several colleges and to experienced workers with the microscope. They are well made, and are sent by mail for \$1.50, or nickel-plated for \$1.75.

EXCHANGES. — Frank S. Collins, 26 Tremont street, Boston, Mass., would like to exchange New England for California, Florida and other Algæ.

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SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

— Dr. Albert Günther, director of the zoölogical department of the British Museum, has received the gold medal of the Royal Society for his important researches on the zoölogy and anatomy of the fishes and reptiles.

— The *Polytechnic Review* of Dec. 21, states that "Prof. J. Gibbons Hunt, of New York, one of the most accomplished microscopists in the country, says that it is affectation or stupidity for Americans to send to Europe for microscopes when they can now purchase better ones at home." It will surprise Dr. Hunt's friends to learn that he is "of New York," especially since the editor of the "*Review*" is, like Dr. Hunt, a citizen of Philadelphia.

— We learn that the Princeton Geological and Palæontological party met with excellent success during the past season. They visited the region of the Mammoth Buttes, east of the Green river, in southern Wyoming, which was explored by Prof. Cope in 1872, and obtained fine series of *Loxolophodon cornutus*, *Palæosyops vallidens* and other species. They will be able to furnish much additional information as to the structure of these

animals. They also examined the region of the upper Ham's Fork, and visited the fish-bearing shales of the tributaries of Bear river, obtaining a good representation of the fossils of that region.

— Longmans & Co. have just published a translation of Heer's *The Primæval World of Switzerland*. Edited by James Heywood. An excellent book for boys with a love of insects is Candèze's *The Curious Adventures of a Field Cricket*. The illustrations and style are most inviting. Dr. Ernest Candèze has long been known as a Belgian coleopterist of high reputation. Petermann's *Mittheilungen*, will hereafter be edited by Dr. E. Behn, assisted by Dr. Lindeman.

— *Etna: a history of the mountain and of its eruptions*, by G. F. Rodnell; with maps and illustrations, London (C. Kegan Paul & Co.), is said to be an excellent and most interesting monograph, comparing favorably with Prof. Phillips' work on Vesuvius.

— The death of George Henry Lewes was quite as much a loss to biology as it was to literature and philosophy. His *Sea-side Studies* is one of the most readable of such books, and in literary merit far out-weighs any similar works; besides it is critical from the point of view of comparative anatomy and physiology. What a hold the biological methods of inquiry have gained among philosophic thinkers is evinced by the reception accorded to Lewes' last and greatest work, the *Problems of Life and Mind*, however much one may refuse to endorse all the conclusions of its author.

— A new edition of Prof. Ramsay's *Physical Geology and Geography of Great Britain* is occupying the attention of reviewers in British journals. His American friends will be pained to know that late in the autumn Prof. Ramsay suffered the extirpation of an eye.

— Prof. Tyndall has just communicated to the Royal Society the results of some further observations on infusions boiled in flasks afterwards hermetically sealed. He took with him to the Alps, last summer, one hundred tubes of infusions—fifty containing turnip and fifty containing cucumber infusions. They were prepared at the laboratory of the Royal Institution, and boiled for five minutes. Twenty flasks were broken in transit. The eighty remained pellucid, and the twenty were turbid with organisms. A number of the eighty flasks had their ends opened in air in which saw-dust had been shaken up, and all were soon turbid. Another set were infected by water of a cascade derived from melting snow, and in three days were thickly charged with organisms. Another set were opened in pure air and remained transparent.

— The curious discovery, says the *English Mechanic*, of parasitism on a diatom (*Pinnularia*) has recently been made by a

Frenchman, who observed small brown points on the surface of the diatom, which have extraordinary agility, and by means of their long flexible appendices explore all parts of the frustule.

— Herr Naumann, a German geologist in Japan, has lately published a work on the earthquakes and volcanic eruptions of Japan. Mr. V. Ball publishes, in the *Geological Magazine* for January, an illustrated article on the volcanoes of the bay of Bengal, correcting some current errors in regard to them.

— We have had an opportunity of examining some excellent photographs by Mr. Franklin C. Hill, of Princeton, New Jersey, illustrating the external anatomy of *Harpalus caliginosus* and *Lucanus cervus*; they are about six inches long. Each appendage and joint, as well as the veins of the wings and the different parts of the body are labeled, so that they are excellent diagrams for the beginner in entomology. The upper and under side of the body is represented, there being four photographs in all, at fifty cents each.

— A writer in *Scribner's Monthly* refers to the protective coloration of the Caribou, stating that the quiet gray color is well adapted to conceal its presence from the hunter, and that it requires an educated eye to pick out its form on the heathy barren where everything assimilates to it in color. "The Indians are so well aware of this, that they always approach a barren with extreme caution, always traveling down wind, and never disconcerted if game is not sighted at once. Nor is the case improved when one comes to hunt for them in the forest; there, the gray tree-trunks and tangled undergrowth make it extremely difficult to see them."

— M. Charles Barrois, of Lille, France, the author of the elaborate treatise on sponges, which appeared two years since, is now in this country studying the geology of the United States east of the plains. Hereafter M. Barrois will devote himself to palæontology and geology, while his brother, M. J. Barrois, the author of the exquisite works on the embryology of nemertean worms and Polyzoa, will continue his zoological studies.

— We regret to notice the suspension of *Field and Forest*, edited by Charles R. Dodge. It was the bulletin of the Potomac-side Naturalists' Club. The number for April, May and June, only lately received, closes volume third, and contains an index.

— Mr. Xenos Clark, of San Francisco, writes us that he is endeavoring to establish a Biological Laboratory at or near that city. Such an institution would be most desirable, and it is to be hoped will meet with liberal support.

— The museum of Brown University has secured through the generosity of the Senior Class of 1878, the skin of a Baffin's Bay walrus, which has been admirably mounted by Professor Jenks, and is now on exhibition.